

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Direct Application of:

SAEED ANOOSH FAR

Application No.: 09/498,396

Filed: February 4, 2000

For: COMPUTER NETWORK
SCANNING

Examiner: April L. Baugh

Group Art Unit: 2141

February 12, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Technology Center 2100

RESPONSE

Sir:

This is a response to the Office Action dated August 12, 2003 (Paper No. 18) in the above-identified application. The period for response has been extended to February 12, 2004 by the Petition For Extension Of Time (with fee) filed herewith.

Claims 1 to 25 remain in the application, of which Claims 1, 7, 21, and 23 to 25 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

February 12, 2004
(Date of Deposit)

Michael K. O'Neill, Reg. NO. 32,622
(Name of Attorney for Applicant)

Signature _____

February 12, 2004
Date of Signature

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 18, 19, and 21 to 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,911,044 (Lo) in view of U.S. Published Application No. 2002/0059362 (Maeda). Claims 3 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Lo in view of Maeda, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,223,223 (Kumpf). Claims 6, 15 to 17 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Lo in view of Maeda, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,168,444 (Cukor). Claims 12 to 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Lo in view of Maeda and Cukor, and further in view of Kumpf. The foregoing rejection is largely the same as that entered in the Office Action dated February 26, 2003 (Paper No. 12). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

In maintaining the rejection, the Office Action took two principal positions. First, the Office Action took the position that Maeda teaches the creation of a scan order at a local computer terminal, wherein the scan order includes an address of recipients of notification of completion of the scan order, and that such recipients might comprise individuals other than a requestor that initiates the scan order. Specifically, the Office Action interpreted Maeda's paragraph [0099] as describing an operational sequence in which an image processing confirmation message is attached to an e-mail, and the e-mail is sent to recipients. The Office Action took the position that such a feature is equivalent to the present invention's feature of creating a scan order, wherein the scan order includes an identification of an item to be scanned and an address of recipients of notification of completion of the scan order which may comprise individuals other than a requestor that initiates the scan order.

Second, the Office Action took the position that Maeda teaches a computer terminal, adapted to receive input for creating a scan order and sending the scan order to an order entry server, wherein the scan order includes at least one network address to which a

scanned image is to be sent, the address being input by a requestor at the computer terminal.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with both positions taken in the Office Action, based on the fundamental observation that Maeda is not seen to disclose or to suggest the creation of a scan order at a computer terminal. Thus, with respect to the first position taken by the Office Action, even if it is true that Maeda's image-processing confirmation message is sent to an e-mail server that is connected to any terminal on the network (as contended in the Office Action but as not specifically conceded by Applicant), the confirmation message is not seen to be the same as a scan order. Rather, as explained by Maeda in paragraph [0098], the image-processing confirmation message is for "indicating that the processing has not been normally completed". In contrast, and as shown in Figure 9 of the present application in the context of a representative embodiment of the invention, the scan order of the present invention is an order for a scan to be performed remotely. Such an order includes the requestor's e-mail address, the e-mail address(es) of the recipient(s), and device settings for the remote scanner(s), any special instructions, and the document(s) to be scanned. Such an arrangement differs largely from the image-processing message of Maeda, such that the image-processing message of Maeda is not seen to be an order for a scan to be performed. Rather, Maeda's image-processing confirmation is an error message regarding the processing of an already-completed scan.

As for the second position taken in the Office Action, Maeda's paragraphs [0025] and [0026] very clearly explain that in Maeda, an image is scanned before arriving at its "computer terminal". Accordingly, in Maeda, the computer terminal does not create and send a scan order, for the reason that the scan is already completed before arriving at the computer terminal. As a consequence, Maeda's system has no need for a scan order,

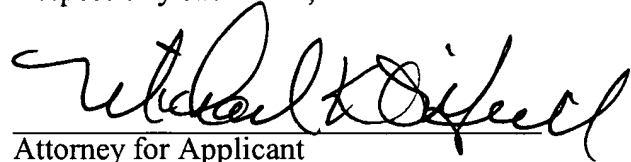
and Applicant respectfully maintains his position that Maeda does not disclose or suggest such a scan order.

In view of the foregoing, even if as contended in the Office Action Maeda discloses a computer terminal adapted to receive input including any address for sending a scanned image, Maeda is still not seen to provide motivation for use of such a feature in Lo. Lo involves a network scanning system for fulfilling a scan order over a computer network. One deficiency of Lo, however, is that an address cannot be inputted at a computer terminal to be included with the scan order. Thus, even if Lo is combined with Maeda, since any address inputted at a computer terminal in Maeda is not for purposes of fulfilling a scan order and is further not included with a scan order, there is simply no reason to use the feature of a computer terminal adapted to receive an input including any address for sending a scanned image in Lo.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the claims herein would not have been obvious from any permissible combination of the art applied against them, and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to
be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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